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OF A
Banbury Cake.



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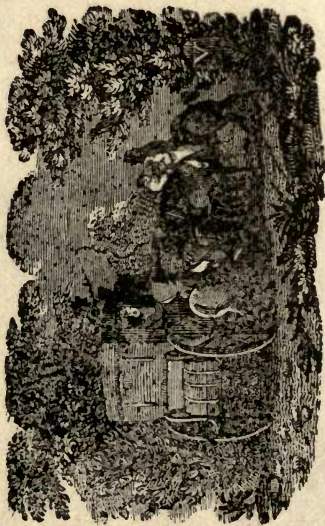
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THE BANBURY CAKE.



The Banbury Cake travelling to Bristol
with miss Nancy, and master Tommy.

THE
HISTORY
OF A
Banbury Cake;

An entertaining Book

FOR CHILDREN.



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PREFACE.

It will be thought very odd, I doubt not, by each little boy and girl, into whose hands this book shall fall, that a *Banbury Cake* should be able to write (as it were) its own life ; but as they advance in years, they will find that many strange things happen every day.—I shall, therefore, without more words to the bargain, proceed in my story.

HISTORY
OF A
BANBURY CAKE.



I WAS born, or made (whichever you please, my little reader), at Banbury, in the county of Oxford, as you may plainly conceive by my title, where great numbers of Cakes are brought into being daily; and from whence they travel by coach, chaise, waggon, cart, horse, and foot, into all parts of this kingdom; nay, and beyond the seas, as I heard my maker declare that he had, more than once sent some of them into France.

Soon after I was made, and while I was yet warm from the oven, I was sold by my maker's fair daugh-



The Banbury Cake travelling to
Oxford with Tommy's papa.

ter, to a person on horseback, for *two pence*. With this person I took my first journey, to Oxford. He rode a very fine black horse, as you may see in the picture; and, as soon as he came home, he gave me to his son, a lovely little boy, about seven years of age; and one, as I found to my comfort, not only lovely in person, but in temper also. His name was TOMMY, and he was praised and loved by all that knew him, and had often presents of cakes, toys, little books, and other things, that are proper for children of his age. The books he kept with great care, as things of value, and worthy of his notice; but other trinkets he seemed to despise: and I, among some other things, was laid aside, for a present to a cousin of his, who was to visit them at *Oxford* that very day. This pretty little lady lived at *Bristol*, a very great

city near the sea, much larger than *Oxford*. There is a stage-coach passes between *Oxford* and *Bristol* every day, and it being between sixty and seventy miles, the young lady did not arrive until almost night. Little Tommy went to meet her at the inn, and led her safe to his papa's house, where he soon made her a present of the things he had before laid by for that purpose, which pleased Miss so much, that she seemed very happy in her visit to *Oxford*: and indeed she was happy always, for all who knew her, loved her, for her meekness and goodness: she was, one might well say, akin to Tommy, both in goodness and beauty; her name was *NANCY*, and she was always called by her playfellows *Pretty Nancy*; and I assure you she was worthy of this name, for she was so kind to her playfellows, and so good and du-

tiful to her parents. She could read very well in her Bible, although but six years old; for she loved her book, and was the first at school in a morning, which made her mistress so fond of her, that she often gave her an apple or an orange, while the naughty girls were beaten or pinned to her apron. She was also very fond of music, and played a tune on the spinet this evening, to oblige master Tommy, who looked over her shoulder to observe her, (*see the picture*) for it was thought very rare, both by himself, and his papa and mamma, that this little cousin, a girl of six years of age only, should be able to play a tune on the spinet.

Supper time was now come, and pretty Nancy was seated at table between her aunt and her cousin Tommy, who helped her to some of the best tarts, pies, jellies, and so forth. But I had almost forgot to tell you, that



Miss Nancy playing on a spinet.

not one of them touched any thing, until master Tommy had said grace, which he did in a very clear and distinct manner. He had always been taught to beg a blessing on his meat before he eat.

Before this time, I was very much afraid I should have fallen a prey to the sharp white teeth of Tommy's little cousin, but I was soon eased of my fears for that time, and found that I was to exist a little longer; for just before supper, Nancy took me in her fair hand, (at which my very heart quaked) and after viewing me some time, she put me into her trunk, saying, "Lie there, my sweet Banbury cake; I will not eat you now, but will carry you to *Bristol*, where I will present you to my dear brother Billy, who, I know, will be happy to possess you, for he is very fond of what we call

“ Banbury Cakes, and you, I am
“ told, are one of the best kind.”

Supper being ended, and Tommy having said grace, as usual, they arose from the table, and sat in the parlour; when Tommy, by the desire of his pappas, took down one of his books, I think he called it his dear Mrs. Trimmer's book, and read with a sweet accent, some pretty stories about a robin-red-breast, and her little ones, and some other dumb creatures. I soon found that the book was meant to teach children to behave with kindness to dumb creatures of all kinds, and that a child who could take pleasure in giving torture to a bird or any other creature, was no better than a brute; he afterwards repeated two or three poems from a pretty book printed by Mr. Rusher, of Banbury, called The Filial Remembrancer, which

are intended to make children more dutiful to their parents, and to increase love between brothers and sisters. Thus was the day and night spent in the most happy manner, and each went to bed pleased and easy in mind, as good people always do.

After Tommy and his little cousin had retired to their separate apartments, they knelt down by their bedsides, intreated God's forgiveness for past offences, and help to make them wiser and better, prayed for their relatives and friends, as their good parents taught them to do both night and morning, and afterwards sunk into a sound sleep.

All this time I lay very snug in the corner of the trunk where miss Nancy placed me, and overheard Tommy's papa and mamma conversing on the pleasure and happiness such good children gave their parents and friends, and appeared

very thankful that God had been pleased to bestow such on them; whom every one of my readers should endeavour to imitate.

At length the next day arrived, and Tommy and his cousin, were taken to see Mr. Polito's collection of wild beasts and birds, which were then exhibiting at Oxford, among which were a large lion, an eagle,



and many other natural curiosities; which sight was very entertaining, as Tommy and his cousin had never seen such before.

They afterwards walked into the colleges, round Christ Church college meadow, and indeed saw all the curiosities about Oxford, and thus agreeably spent their time till the day appointed for Nancy's return home, where Tommy accompanied her, when I was again taken from the trunk, and more carefully secured from the dangers of the journey, and at length safely arrived at Bristol, where I am in immediate expectation of falling a prey to Billy, and have only time to request you, (my little readers) will follow these good examples, that you may be respected and beloved by all who know you, and that you may have reason to remember

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